

death should serve as a reminder of the ongoing need for improvement in Turkish-Armenian relations.

Hrant Dink worked as the editor of "Agos", a bilingual paper designed to reach both Turks and Armenians. He was an outspoken advocate of democratic change and freedom of speech.

While Turkish officials rightly condemned the political killing, Turkey has not yet repealed Article 301 of the Turkish Penal code, which makes it illegal to discuss the Armenian Genocide. This law, which criminalizes free speech, hampers Turkey's efforts to restore their relationship with Armenia, a goal the Turkish government claims to desire.

Hrant Dink's death was more than an assassination; it was an attack on the principle of free speech. Turkish officials should use the anniversary of his death as an opportunity to restore open communication between the citizens of both countries. Lasting reconciliation must be built on uninhibited dialogue and Turkey can begin building the road to restoration by recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

We remember the legacy of Hrant Dink by encouraging Turkey to tolerate democratic freedoms and rebuild their relationship with Armenia.

HONORING PASTER LLOYD
MADDOUX AND HIS WIFE PAT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of great community and spiritual leaders, Paster Lloyd Maddoux and his wife Pat for their 25 years of service to the ministry at the First Assembly of God in Conroe, Texas. Pastor Maddoux is a true servant to society and has left a lasting impression on numerous lives.

Pastor Maddoux has touched countless lives—when people are in every season of life. Pastor Maddoux has celebrated with families when he's officiated at their weddings and offered blessing over the birth of a new baby. He's helped new Christian believers grow closer in their walks with their Savior through Bible teachings and baptism. He has helped honor the lives of men and women who have passed away with funerals that celebrated their lives and offered hope of eternity through Jesus Christ.

A Pastor is a servant to his congregation and community. Pastor Maddoux has opened up his home church as a shelter for Hurricane Rita victims, where over 300 people and pets took shelter. He and Pat have opened their home many times to help strangers, neighbors and friends.

Not only has he touched lives in our community, but he has reached out to do missions all over this country, as well as abroad in Mexico, the Philippines, Seoul, Korea, West Africa and Turkey. Pastor Maddoux has also touched lives through participating in prison ministries.

He has served in numerous positions such as the board of Greater Houston Teen Challenge and mission boards for the South Texas District-North Houston Section. Pastor Maddoux was a National Finals Chairman for the Oral Roberts University Educational Fel-

lowship. He is the current Presbyterian of the North Houston Section of the Assemblies of God Ministers and also served as a committee member. He has helped with Lifestyle Ministries Radio and Lifestyle Christian School, which began in 1985. He is the originator of many traditions in our community, such as the National Day of Prayer in Conroe and the Men's Day of Prayer. He was also a manager at the Kids Camp Victory.

Madam Speaker, Pastor Maddoux and his wife Pat are rare individuals whom I respect greatly. Our nation joins me in honoring both of them today for their 25 years of service to our community and First Assembly of God in Conroe, Texas.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT HUBER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to my longtime friend and one-time colleague Robert Huber in recognition of being awarded the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award by the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

Bob Huber has been involved in my hometown of Simi Valley, California, for more than 40 years, and I have known him for more than 30 of those years. We worked together on many community projects over the years and served together some decades ago on the Simi Valley City Council.

In addition to his service on the City Council, Bob is past chairman of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, an active member of Rotary Noon Time, and an elected member of the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees.

He is also a charter Board Member of the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

It's his passion for the community, and the Community Foundation in particular, for which he is being honored with the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

Several years ago the Community Foundation nearly closed due to a lack of community identity. Bob is credited with turning that around. His ideas, passion, and drive helped refocus the foundation. Today, it is again growing and thriving. One of Bob's inspirations was the foundation's successful Mayor's Dinner, which he has chaired for the past 3 years. This and other successful events have enabled the foundation to raise and grant monies to other charities annually.

Bob is also a trial lawyer, but nobody's perfect.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking my friend Bob Huber for his decades of service to the community and join the Simi Valley Community Foundation in tribute to a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.
ARMY SPC JON MICHAEL "MIKE"
SCHOOLCRAFT III

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on January 19, 2008, the great states of Indiana and Ohio lost a brave son. Army SPC Jon Michael "Mike" Schoolcraft III was killed in Iraq from injuries sustained when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. A native of Wapakoneta, OH, several members of Specialist Schoolcraft's family currently live in Madison, IN, in Jefferson County.

Mike, as he was known, enlisted in the Army with a friend after graduating from Wapakoneta High School in northwest Ohio in 2001. At Wapakoneta High he excelled at wrestling and baseball, and enjoyed spending time outdoors.

Before embarking on his second 15-month deployment, Schoolcraft promised his mother that this would be his last deployment. He looked forward to finding a stateside military contracting job and living with his new wife.

Specialist Schoolcraft's father, Mike, Jr., described him as a "typical All-American boy." He was a hero to his father. He further described his son as "very respectful" and that the Army took this wonderful young man and made him better.

Before deploying, Schoolcraft told his mother that he was going to Iraq for a reason: to keep his loved ones safe.

SPC Jon Michael Schoolcraft III is a true American hero. His sacrifice for our Nation deserves our most heartfelt thanks. I, along with Specialist Schoolcraft's family, and the towns of Madison, IN, and Wapakoneta, OH, will mourn Mike's premature death. His friends and family are in my prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS TO
REDUCE RISKS OF WILDFIRES TO
FOREST-AREA COMMUNITIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, Colorado and other Rocky Mountain States face a very real risk of severe wildfires in our forest lands, which directly threaten many communities and critical resources, including water supplies.

There are several reasons. One is drought. Another is past management that over-emphasized fire suppression, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of our western forests, with the result that in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and small-diameter trees greater than would be present if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno.

The problem has been made worse by our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the "wildland-urban interface." And when you add the effects of widespread

infestations of insects, you have a recipe for even worse to come.

Many species of bark beetles, such as the mountain pine beetle, are native to our forests. They place stress on trees by burrowing through the bark. If a tree is healthy, it can defend itself by producing sap to repel and expel the invaders. But if the defense fails, the insects lay their eggs in the woody material below the bark. Once the eggs hatch, they feed on the tree's fiber and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients from the tree's roots to its needles and branches. In addition, the invading insects bring in fungi and other invaders that further damage the tree. If enough insects are able to penetrate the tree and lay eggs, the tree dies. The offspring then mature and fly to another tree and the cycle begins anew.

These insects help to balance tree densities and set the stage for fires and thereby the generation of new tree growth. And when forests are healthy and there are adequate supplies of water, the insects' effects are relatively low-scale and isolated. But under the right conditions—such as drought, unusually warm winters, or when there are dense stands of even-aged trees—the insects can cause large-scale tree mortality, turning whole mountainsides and valleys rust red.

That is what is happening in many mountainous areas in Colorado. And more and more our mountain communities find themselves in uncomfortable proximity to acres of dead trees, turned rust red by the insects and adding to their concerns about the danger of very severe wildfires.

All Coloradans were reminded of this earlier this month, when the Federal and State foresters reported that the beetle infestation first detected in 1996 grew by a half-million acres last year, bringing the total number of acres attacked by bark beetles to 1.5 million, and has spread further into Front Range counties east of the Continental Divide.

Last year, I introduced legislation to respond to this problem by, first, facilitating more rapid responses to the insect epidemic where that is needed to reduce the wildfire threats to our communities; and second, promoting research on ways to improve the health of our forest lands. That bill—H.R. 3072—was developed through broad consultation with many people in Colorado and discussions among our state's entire Colorado delegation. It is cosponsored by all my Colorado colleagues in the House, and Senators KEN SALAZAR and WAYNE ALLARD introduced identical legislation in the Senate. I intend to continue to work for enactment of its provisions, as a single measure or otherwise.

And that delegation measure would be supplemented in two different ways by the bills I am introducing today.

One bill focuses on steps to help our communities act to reduce the potential damages their residents could suffer as a result of wildfires. It is cosponsored by our colleague from California, Representative FILNER; I appreciate his support.

A House companion to legislation, S. 2390, introduced by Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN, this "Fire Safe Communities Act" would provide incentives for at-risk communities to adopt a new model Fire Safe ordinance that will set national standards in building codes, creation of "defensible space" around homes, and reduction of hazardous fuels. It also would authorize new Federal grants to help commu-

nities integrate fire-resisting aspects into local ordinances, and would authorize increased Federal reimbursement of firefighting costs to participating communities.

The other bill would amend the recently-enacted Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, P.L. 110-140, to allow material removed from additional forest lands to reduce hazardous fuels to be eligible for some incentives for use of renewable biomass to generate energy.

Title II of the new energy law puts new emphasis on developing biofuels that rely on additional sources of biomass, including agricultural wastes, municipal solid waste, and dedicated energy crops such as perennial grasses, fast-growing trees, and algae.

Accordingly, the new law requires an expansion of the 2005 law's renewable fuel standard so as to require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel in motor fuels annually by 2022, of which 21 billion gallons must be "advanced biofuel," defined as biofuel produced from feedstocks other than corn starch and having 50 percent lower lifecycle emissions than petroleum fuels.

For purposes of title II, the new energy law defines the term "renewable fuel" as "fuel that is produced from renewable biomass and that is used to replace or reduce the quantity of fossil fuel present in a transportation fuel."

But its definition of "renewable biomass" does not include material removed from Federal or State forest lands in order to reduce wildfire risks, except to the extent that the removal occurs in the "immediate vicinity of buildings and other areas regularly occupied by people, or of public infrastructure, at risk from wildfire."

I think this definition is too narrow and would unnecessarily limit the potential incentive for private industry to assist in reducing the buildup of hazardous fuels that threaten forest-area communities in Colorado and other States.

So, the second bill I am introducing today would revise the definition of "renewable biomass" in that part of the new energy law to include biomass removed in connection with a hazardous-fuel reduction project from lands within the wildland-urban interface, as defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress I have put a priority on reducing the wildfire risks to our communities. In 2000, with our then colleague, Representative Hefley, I introduced legislation to facilitate reducing the buildup of fuel in the parts of Colorado that the Forest Service, working with State and local partners, identified at greatest risk of fire—the so-called "red zones." Concepts from that legislation were included in the National Fire Plan developed by the Clinton Administration and were also incorporated into the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a Member of the Resources Committee, I had worked to develop the version of that legislation that the committee approved in 2002, and while I could not support the different version initially passed by the House in 2003, I voted for the revised version developed in conference with the Senate later that year—the version that President Bush signed into law.

Since then, in Colorado there has been very welcome progress in developing community wildfire protection plans and focusing fuel-reduction projects in the priority wildland-urban interface—which we sometimes call the "red

zone" areas—two important aspects of the new law. But the problem remains very serious, and both H.R. 3072 and the two additional bills I am introducing today would take important further steps to address it.

We cannot eradicate insects from our forests—nor should we, because insects are a natural part of forest ecosystems. Instead, we can and should act to reduce the wildfire threats to our communities—and their residents' lives and property—as well as to promote research on ways to improve the health of our forest lands.

That is the purpose of H.R. 3072, and it is also the purpose of the two bills I am introducing today. For the information of our colleagues, here are outlines of both bills:

FIRE SAFE COMMUNITY ACT

This bill, a House companion to S. 2390, would establish new incentives for communities at risk of wildfire to improve fire-prevention efforts. Key components include:

Creating a model ordinance for communities at risk of fire located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Bill will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to create a model ordinance, in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of this model ordinance is to provide a baseline for communities to become "fire safe," including suggested water supply, construction materials and techniques, defensible space, vegetation management, and infrastructure standards;

Developing a new \$25 million grant program to assist local communities in implementing the activities and policies of the NIST model ordinance. To qualify for this grant program, communities must be located in a fire hazard area and take steps toward the implementation of the model ordinance. These grants, administered by FEMA, can be used to enforce local ordinances and codes, develop incentive programs to improve code compliance, educate local planners on fire resistant planning, zoning and home construction, as well as train local fire departments on emerging technologies such as GIS fire mapping;

Providing grants to States on a 50/50 cost share basis to create or update fire hazard maps. Authorizes \$15 million annually for States to develop or update statewide fire hazard maps which identify communities at risk of wildfire;

Establishing incentives for communities that decide to become more fire safe by changing the federal share of firefighting and emergency expenses reimbursed under FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grants. Currently states and local communities can have 75 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed by the federal government, if FEMA determines that a fire threatened a significant number of homes and structures. Under this bill, communities in fire hazard areas that adopt the new model ordinance would be eligible to have 90 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed under the Fire Management Assistance Grants program;

Authorizing the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to offer grants to local communities for fire safe practices. The bill makes revisions to the authorization of the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to allow them to administer grants to local communities for model ordinance compliance and for responsible zoning and fire protection strategies. The U.S. Forest Service would administer \$35 million in fire-safe grants. The

Department of the Interior would administer \$15 million in these grants.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND RENEWABLE BIOMASS UTILIZATION ACT

This bill would revise the definition of “renewable biomass” in section 201 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 so as to facilitate and encourage the use of biomass removed from certain additional forest lands as an energy source, in order to reduce the risk of severe wildfires to communities, infrastructure, and water supplies.

Specifically, the bill would expand the current definition of “renewable biomass” to include biomass removed from lands within the wildland-urban interface in connection with an authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects.

The bill uses the definitions of “hazardous fuel reduction project” and “wildland-urban interface” that are used in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

That Act defines the term “wildland-urban interface” as including “an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified ... in a community wildfire protection plan” or, with regard to a community that has not developed a community wildfire protection plan, lands within a specified distance from the community’s boundary (a distance that can vary depending on the presence of steep slopes or other geographic features) as well as areas adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that require hazardous fuel reduction to provide safer evacuation from an at-risk community.

These definitions provide greater specificity than the term “immediate vicinity” now used in this part of the new energy law, and will broaden the scope of its applicability. I supported enactment of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and I think it is appropriate to follow its example in this respect.

RECOGNIZING COREY DYLAN JEPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Corey Dylan Jepson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Corey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. He has held several leadership positions in the troop including Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. Not only has Corey had many accomplishments within his troop, but he has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Corey Dylan Jepson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING VERIDIAN HOMES’ BUILDER OF THE YEAR 2008 AWARD

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Veridian Homes for receiving Professional Builder magazine’s Builder of the Year for 2008, one of the homebuilding industry’s most prestigious and coveted awards. This honor not only demonstrates a unique level of innovation but also a vigorous dedication to quality and customer service.

As the largest residential builder in the State of Wisconsin, Veridian builds nearly 500 homes and condominiums each year. This level of productivity has earned it a market share of over 30 percent while offering a variety in price, style, and size. In only 4 short years, Veridian Homes has claimed the spotlight as an industry leader despite the uncertainties presented by the current market.

Co-founders David Simon and Jeff Rosenberg have successfully combined the conventional wisdom of community development with a creative blend of environmentally conscious business practices and quality improvement strategies. All of Veridian’s homes and condominiums meet Green Built Home and Energy Star program standards. The company has also built six LEED-certified homes and initiated its own recycling program, in addition to actively experimenting with more resource and material-efficient processes.

Even more impressive, though, is their attention to partnership and accountability. Simon and Rosenberg have consistently demanded feedback from their employees, trade partners, and customers alike to ensure a level of continuous development. This customer and product-first approach leaves no aspect of quality improvement unattended.

To the truest extent, Veridian Homes has made Wisconsin a great place to live. I am proud to have such an extraordinary innovator and trendsetter right here in Dane County. I wish Veridian Homes many more years of success as a model for excellence and customer satisfaction.

CONGRATULATING DR. HAN SEUNG-SOO ON HIS NOMINATION AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to my friend, Dr. Han Seung-soo, on his nomination as the next Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea by President-Elect Lee Myung-Bak.

Dr. Han, currently serving as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change, has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He has previously served as South Korea’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ambassador to the

United States, and Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Korea. He served three terms in the South Korean National Assembly and thus has been, like us, a member of his country’s legislature.

Moreover, in recognition of his exemplary record as a diplomat, Dr. Han was also elected President of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001. He was to be officially elected to the presidency on the fateful morning of September 11, 2001 but was, instead, sworn in on the next day. His leadership was instrumental in the passage of a resolution by the UN General Assembly session denouncing the terrorist attacks. He wrote about these experiences in his new book entitled “Beyond the Shadow of 9–11: A Year at the United Nations General Assembly.” He recently sent me a signed copy of his memoirs, which I greatly appreciate.

Over the years, Dr. Han and I have crossed paths on more than one occasion due to our mutual interest in international environmental policy and, in particular, the issues surrounding global climate change. As chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Global Environment, I have always been personally impressed by Dr. Han’s depth and breadth of knowledge, his ability to listen to people with different—and sometimes technically complex—ideas, and his capacity for synthesizing the best of available knowledge for eventual decisionmaking.

Last November, speaking in Bangkok at the Committee on Managing Globalization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, Dr. Han noted the need for rapid economic growth in Asia and the Pacific—home to two-thirds of the world’s poor. However, he pointed out, actions on climate change could be compatible with economic growth, saying: “We can turn the crisis of climate change into a new economic opportunity.”

The choice of Dr. Han Seung-soo to be Prime Minister by President-Elect Lee Myung-Bak provides excellent evidence that the U.S.-Korea alliance partnership will continue to further consolidate and deepen under their leadership. During Dr. Han’s tenures as both the Republic of Korea’s Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United States, he cultivated many friends and admirers in Washington.

Let me also take this opportunity to say that I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the resolution congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea. I look forward to working with his incoming administration on the important challenges facing the region, especially peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in offering their own congratulations to Dr. Han Seung-soo and wish him well in his new responsibilities.

HONORING COACH JIM ALGEO

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Coach Jim Algeo on celebrating his 40th anniversary as